

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 have been cancelled and new claims 22-28 are presented. The allowance of claims 17-21 is noted with appreciation. It is believed that new claims 22-28 are also allowable.

The present invention concerns a novel medical device delivery system for a self-expanding stent. The delivery system comprises an outer sheath comprising an elongated tubular body member and a distal section. The sheath comprises an inner layer having braiding disposed thereon. A coating is applied over and bonded to the braiding with a coating of the distal section being formed from a light transmissive material. An inner shaft is located coaxially with the outer sheath. The shaft has a distal end and a proximal end. A self-expanding stent is located within the distal section of the outer sheath. The stent makes frictional contact with the outer sheath, and the shaft is coupled to the stent for delivery of the stent.

The distal section is light transmissive whereby the stent may be visually inspected through the distal section.

Claims 23, 24 and 28 bring out the addition of a radiopaque agent in a claimed formulation, while claim 27 brings out how the distal section has a greater inside and outside diameter than the inside and outside diameter of the tubular body member.

Among other things, the Sullivan published application does not disclose the medical device delivery system as claimed, in which the sheath comprises an inner layer having braiding disposed thereon, with a coating applied over and bonded to the braiding and with the coating of the distal section formed from a light transmissive material. Further, the Sullivan published application does not disclose a distal section

having a greater inside and outside diameter than the inside and outside diameter of the tubular body member.

Neither Willard et al nor Poncet remedy the deficiencies of Sullivan. While Poncet discloses an enlarged distal section, Poncet does not disclose a sheath comprising an inner layer having braiding disposed thereon, with a light transmissive coating applied over and bonded to the braiding and with the distal section being light transmissive so that the stent can be visually inspected through the distal section. Willard et al does not disclose the outer sheath as claimed nor does Willard et al disclose an enlarged distal section for delivery of a self-expanding stent nor does Willard et al disclose a distal section formed from a light transmissive material.

Whether the references are taken singly or combined with each other, they do not form a proper basis for rejection of Applicant's new claims. The claims have been structured to distinguish Applicants' invention over the prior art references and it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Registered Attorney for Applicant
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